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Summary record of the 27th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Kmoníček ..... (Czech Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 126: United Nations common system (*continued*) (A/C.5/58/L.36)

1. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.36, entitled "United Nations common system". He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.36 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Golovanov** (Russian Federation) said that, in joining the consensus on the draft resolution, his delegation had taken into account the statement made by the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission that parastatal organizations would be taken into account in the context of the review of the pay and benefits structure of the General Service category.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/58/7/Add.18 and A/C.5/58/20)

4. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/C.5/58/20), said that provision for special political missions had already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of $163,178,100 ($169,431,700 after recosting).

5. The report contained budget proposals for 20 special political missions, 17 of which had mandates emanating from the Security Council and 3 of which had mandates emanating from the General Assembly. He noted that, although the latter had been included in the report in order to reflect a consolidated picture of resource requirements for special political missions, those mandates had yet to be confirmed in respect of 2004. In that connection, there would be a special presentation, under rule 153 of the rules of procedure, on the programme budget implications of extending the mandates of those missions. The total estimated requirements for the 20 missions for 2004 amounted to $140,304,500, of which $7.2 million would be allocated to the 3 missions with mandates emanating from the General Assembly and $133.1 million would be allocated to the 17 remaining missions.

6. He drew attention to tables 1 to 3 in the report and pointed out that the level of resource requirements varied greatly from mission to mission. The requirements for the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) amounted to $100.4 million, almost 72 per cent of the total requested. The total related staffing requirement for all the special political missions was 2,079 posts. He also pointed out that section III of table 1 listed the special political missions that had been completed, discontinued or integrated with other operations.

7. It was proposed that financing for all 20 missions should be approved on the understanding that the resources would only be utilized when the mandates were in place. The balance of resources remaining for special political missions in the initial provision of $169,431,700, after charges totalling $140,304,500, amounted to $29,127,200. Any further requirements beyond that balance arising for special political missions during the course of the biennium 2004-2005 would be treated in accordance with the procedures provided for in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

8. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Administrative Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/58/7/Add.18), said that paragraphs 3 to 12 of the Advisory Committee's report contained general observations on the missions referred to in the report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had noted with satisfaction that efforts had been made to improve the presentation of estimates in accordance with comments the Committee made in its previous reports but stressed, in particular in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11, the need for further improvement.

9. Paragraphs 13 to 32 of the report focused on specific missions. The Advisory Committee had noted that a number of estimates of some missions would have to be revisited, in particular the requirements for

UNAMI, which were of a tentative nature. The final level of resources would depend on developments in the region.

10. With reference to paragraphs 27 and 28, he said that initial preparations for the international conference on the Great Lakes region would result in as yet unspecified additional resource requirements. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretariat would come back to the issue after conducting the appropriate assessment.

11. In conclusion, he said that, subject to the comments and observations set out in its report, ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly should approve resources amounting to $140,304,500, under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, as a charge against the provision for special political missions.

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board
(A/58/7/Add.19 and A/C.5/58/27)

12. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/C.5/58/27), said that the additional appropriation required under section 1 of the regular budget, after recosting arising from the recommendations of the Standing Committee, was estimated at $1,589,900.

13. The original budget proposals, prepared in early 2003, were based on the assumption that the resource requirements for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund would remain at the same level as those for 2002-2003. However, a number of recommendations made by the Standing Committee concerning, inter alia, office space, additional posts and audit functions, had meant that additional funds were required. Consequently, the share of the requirements attributable to the United Nations regular budget would increase to 65 per cent.

14. The additional resource requirements would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would be subject to the provisions of that fund and would need to be considered in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of potential charges.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/58/7/Add.19), said that the Advisory Committee's report applied its previous recommendations contained in its report on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/58/7/Add.9). The technical application of those recommendations would lead to an additional appropriation of $1,504,500 under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005.

16. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that he was not clear about the basis for the increase from 58 to 65 per cent in the share of the United Nations regular budget in the overall requirement for the Pension Fund referred to in paragraph 3 of the report of ACABQ. He inquired whether there had been an error in the calculation.

17. He observed that the financial implications contained in the report of the Secretary-General had been presented in anticipation of a budget that had not yet been approved by the General Assembly. In that connection, and to speed up the work of the Fifth Committee, he wondered whether the Chairman could submit a draft resolution accepting the recommendations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the report of ACABQ without the need for informal consultations.

18. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that paragraph 3 of the report of ACABQ referred to the revised percentage. Since the Advisory Committee itself had indicated that it needed additional information to explain the increase, he felt that it might be more appropriate for the Secretariat to respond to the question posed by the representative of the United States of America.

19. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the formula used to determine the sharing of the costs of the Pension Fund was fairly intricate. Additional information had been provided to the secretariat of ACABQ and that information would be shared with the members of the Fifth Committee in informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.